COVID-19 Booster Shots: Frequently Asked Questions

When will the COVID-19 vaccine boosters be available?

The goal is for people to start receiving a COVID-19 booster shot beginning in the fall, with a specific timeline to be determined once more information is available. This is subject to authorization by the FDA and recommendation by the CDC's Advisory Committee on Immunization Practices (ACIP).

Who will be the first people to get a booster dose?

If authorized by the FDA, and recommended by the ACIP, the goal is for the first people eligible for a booster dose to be those who were the first to receive a COVID-19 vaccination (those most at risk). This includes healthcare providers, residents of long-term care facilities, and other older adults.

What if I received the J&J (Janssen) vaccine?

There currently isn't enough data to support getting the Pfizer or Moderna vaccine if you have previously received the J&J vaccine; however it is likely that a booster will be needed, and more data is expected in the coming weeks. The CDC and our department will keep the public informed of what the plan is for 1&1 booster shots.

What's the difference between a booster and an additional dose?

Sometimes people who are moderately to severely immunocompromised do not build enough (or any) protection when they first get a vaccination. Getting another dose of the vaccine can sometimes help them build more protection. CDC recommends these individuals consider getting an additional (third) dose of the vaccine. In contrast, a "booster dose" refers to another dose of a vaccine given to someone who built enough protection after vaccination, but then that protection decreased over time (this is called waning immunity).



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